



The First Universalist Church of Essex

April 2017

Joyful noise and 20-plus years of great coffee house music

Years ago in Pittsburgh I was asked to give a short speech at a huge peace rally in downtown. Problem is, so were about 20 other people, all representing different constituencies. I was to be speechmaker # 16 or 17, so by the time we got to #14, not only I but clearly most of the crowd was in total snooze mode; too many words! Meanwhile, we did have some musicians on stage, however, they sang a few tunes at the beginning and were slated to end with a few tunes with 20 speeches in between. So at #14 I went to the moderator and said, let's skip my speech that will get us closer to the musician's performance. The moderator looked at me kind of funny but said "sure."

I also believe that, though we need less words when we gather and more song, generally, speeches, sermons can have a place. In this vein, the Cape Ann clergy group decided to highlight about 12 community organizations doing outreach and activism, but in the context of mostly singing together. Hence, on Tuesday, April 4, we'll gather at the Rockport UU church to mostly sing about love and peace and justice, but, at the same time, have resource people BRIEFLY share what their group is doing and those same folks will be around to answer questions and provide good information concerning their activities. PLEASE THINK OF JOINING US at 7pm.

And speaking of music, not only is our church noted for great music with our fabulous pianists, Betsy, Fran, Lisa and Julie, our band and choir during Sunday services, but for over 20 years THE ONE WORLD COFFEE HOUSE, begun by Fran Pierce and Roger Pierce, and soon joined by Debbie and Paul Frontierro, and eventually others, most recently Tim O'Riordan, has operated 9-10 evenings a year in our church hall downstairs, featuring great local and regional musical talent, mostly in the folk tradition, but also blues, bluegrass, popular, etc. Well, truth be told, the crew is at the point where it is ready to slowly move on and hand over the coffee house to a new crew with, potentially, a new vision to carry it on. So we are asking congregational members and friends: would you be interested in being part of a new coffee house team who can help transition this wonderful Cape Ann asset and continue to offer great programming 6-9 times a year in our wonderful coffee house venue? The current team is very happy to help with the transition and continue to be a resource for ongoing

activities. If you have interest or inquiries, please speak with Fran Pierce and/or Roger Pierce. We are currently booked through December of 2017, and may well book through next May, but then we would be ready for new energy and leadership.

Meanwhile, thanks to all who provide music that speaks to hearts and souls and inspires us to act for building the beloved community here on Cape Ann. Let's keep on singing. See you in church and on April 4!

Blessings, Love and Hope, Art



COFFEE HOUSE features our very own Daisy Nell and Capt. Stan on Saturday, April 22, 8pm.

Leading up to Easter/Passover, we will have the following services:

Lenten meditation on Wednesday, April 5, 7pm;

Maundy/Holy Thursday communion service on Thursday, April 13, at 7pm;



Easter Sunrise at Conomo Point, 6am, April 16, followed by breakfast at Essex UU, at 6:45, then our regular Easter service at 10am on the 16th.

If you would like to dedicate an Easter lily in someone's name, please give your donations, along with the person(s) name(s) to LOIS SIMMONDS.



Notes from the Retreat

On a rainy weekend in March, we had a retreat at Notre Dame Spirituality Center in Ipswich. Stepping outside of the busy-ness of our lives for a few hours or a few days and enjoying the company of our community was a gift!

Friday evening Art started us off with a quick historical perspective of Unitarian Universalism and then we heard from four members - Susan Monahan, John Brown, Molly Gould and Peter Kellerman about their faith journeys. We realize that we all come from very different backgrounds but have found common ground at First Universalist Church of Essex. Thank you all for sharing!

On Saturday, we spent the day reflecting on what we value as a church and through different activities and sharing in small group and large, we began to identify what we value most about the church, what drives the mission of the church. One common theme that came up through the entire weekend is that we really enjoy spending time together. We value the community we have created and crave more opportunities to get together.

Mon. April 3	TAI CHI (all Mondays)
Tues. April 4	PFLAG 7pm
" " " "	Joyful Noise 7pm
Wed. April 5	Lenten Meditation 7pm
Thurs. April 6	ECCO Assembly 7pm
Sat. April 8	Spiritual Parenting 4:30pm
Sun. April 9	Choir 9am - Palm Sunday
Wed. April 12	Board of Trustees 6:30pm
Thurs. April 13	Open Door, 4-6pm
" " " " "	Maundy/Holy Thursday 7pm
Fri. April 14	Family Game 6pm
Sun. April 16	Easter Sunrise 6am
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" " " " "	Choir 9am
" " " " "	Easter Service 10am
Thurs. April 20	Band practice 7pm
Fri/Sat	UU Assembly-regional
Sat. April 22	Coffee House 8pm
Sun. April 23	Band plays 10am
Sun. April 30	Choir 9am
UPCOMING:	
Sun. May 7	ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING 11:30am

CARE & HOSPITALITY:

We are in prayerful solidarity with Fran Pierce, Sean Moynihan and Johanna Knapschaefer, each of whom lost her/his mothers in the past few weeks.



Family Promise's "Taste the Promise 2017" fundraiser will take place at the Danversport Yacht Club on Wednesday, May 3 from 6 to 9pm. The evening features live jazz, a tasting menu supplied by North Shore restaurants and a silent auction.

Shamrocks and Shenanigans Success!

A huge thanks to everyone who contributed their time and talent to make this year's fundraiser an enormous success! It was a great night, and our community spirit was evident from the conversational buzz at dinner straight through to (literally) dancing in the aisles at the end - not to mention everyone who stayed to clean up. The silent auction was lots of fun, and entertainment was amazing as always. It is wonderful when we can all share so joyfully, and across the generations! And, of course, we made some money, too... With ticket sales, auction proceeds, and some additional donations, we raised over \$8000. Thank you all for your generosity!

Note: If you need any info or follow up on auction items, please ask Bethany or Tudy.



Don't forget to put in your calendar the ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING on Sunday, May 7, 11:30am.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND SOCIAL JUSTICE:

Grace Center – Once every six weeks or so, on a “Fifth Friday” of the month, we bring together the midday meal for the 60/65 guests who depend on the Grace Center for warmth, friendship, a hot meal and a quiet place to sit with a cup of coffee on a cold, wet day. We’ve just completed our third such Fifth Friday. Dozens of brownies, half-a-sack of potatoes, pounds of peas, a small bathtub of salad – and the elegant baked fish from a favorite Gloucester restaurant, funded by the first of half-a-dozen UU gift-givers; coordination and generosity are the key to this being an effective event – and our UU Essex community is rich in these traits.

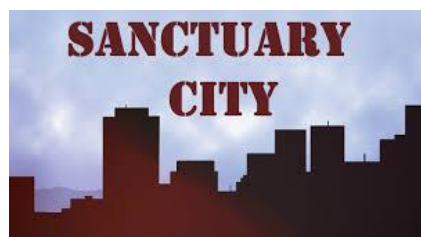


Here’s the first 10 lbs. of spuds being bashed by Diana Hughes and her neighbor. Diana reports that we have messages of “thanks” to UU Essex from so many of the guests – it was a lovely meal. Thank you to the UU Essex team Rebecca Axelrod, Diana Hughes, Carol Thedford, Linda and Sage Walcott, Cindy Westman and Louise Marsh for the March 31 Fifth Friday luncheon at the Grace Center.

On Thursday, April 13, we will be cooking at OPEN DOOR PANTRY, from 4-6pm. Speak with Cindy Westman or Carol Thedford if you can help or donate. Please, also, remember to bring foodstuffs to the church for OPEN DOOR; baskets are located in the front of the church.

PFLAG meets every first Monday of the month, this month on April 4.

ECCO is in the midst of a very busy time, in part thanks to the new administration in Washington. We are working tirelessly on immigration issues: declaring sanctuary cities (SALEM JUST DECLARED), working and meeting with local police about



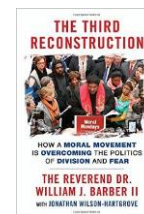
dealings with immigrants (SALEM, LYNN, PEABODY, GLOUCESTER, and ESSEX), training congregations on declaring sanctuary or being support congregations, and

lobbying for a "safe Communities" bill in the MA. Legislature: SD 1596; HD 3052.

This past week as Salem declared itself a sanctuary city, our Buddhist marchers from Leveret, MA, came through Ipswich, Beverly and Salem, and met with Salem’s Mayor, Kim Driscoll, congressman Moulton’s staff, and were provided wonderful hospitality by the Salem UU church. With the support of Salem Mayor and police chief, Salem city councilors voted 7-4 to declare sanctuary city! ECCO played a major role in all of this.

Also, ECCO is doing much around prison reform with several pieces of legislation up for vote in the state legislature. On Thursday, April 6, at 7pm at St. Stephen’s church in Lynn, there will be an ECCO ASSEMBLY on prison reform with several legislators attending. We are also meeting with police, the sheriff of Essex County, and the county DA. PLEASE COME TO THE ASSEMBLY!

ADULT EDUCATION just finished a wonderful read: The Third Reconstruction by Rev. William Barber, a personal book about the development of a national movement called MORAL REVIVAL, a manifesto to transform this country into a more just and loving entity. It’s a great read.



There’s a regional Friday/Saturday, flyer in the church



UU assembly on April 21/22. Please see hall for details.



Join us on April 8 for a discussion on "rhythms of the home." From housework to bedtimes, how do we work cooperatively as a family to support, nurture and tend to each other. A

potluck meal will follow the discussion. Gather at 4:30. Childcare is provided. Hope you can join us!

TAI CHI takes place every Monday evening at 6:30pm. Speak with Jenny Harkness if you have interest. Meanwhile, Jim Thuline, last Summer’s TAI CHI teacher will begin classes on Monday starting July 10 and running to mid-September.



We have been given a dozen boxes of excellent contemporary novels, cooking and travel books. We don’t have room to display them all, so half will be disposed of (think The Book Superstore now in Lynnfield?) by the end of the month. Come on by!